

Masses and Services this week

Sunday 22nd April	9.00am Mass	Leo Horrax	Fourth Sunday of Easter Good Shepherd Sunday
	11.00am Mass	Personal Intention	
	6pm Mass	Elphin Conroy	
Monday 23rd April	9.15 am Mass	Service of the Word and Communion	St George
Tuesday 24th April		NO MASS	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Wednesday 25th April	9.15am Mass	Service of the Word and Communion	St Mark
Thursday 26th April		NO MASS	Our Lady of Good Counsel
Friday 27th April	9.15am Service	Service of the Word and Communion	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Saturday 28th April		NO MASS	<i>Weekday of Easter</i>
Sunday 29th April	9.00am Mass	Paul McCole & Fr. Lawrence	Fifth Sunday of Easter
	11.00am Mass	Roger Adamson	
	6.00pm Mass	Elphin Conroy	

Devotions This Week

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	8.30am — 9.00am 10.30am—12noon	Monday to Friday Saturday
The Angelus	9.00am	Monday to Wednesday
The Rosary	9.40am	Saturday Morning
Divine Mercy Devotions	7.00pm	Thursday

Ministries Next Week: 29th April 2018

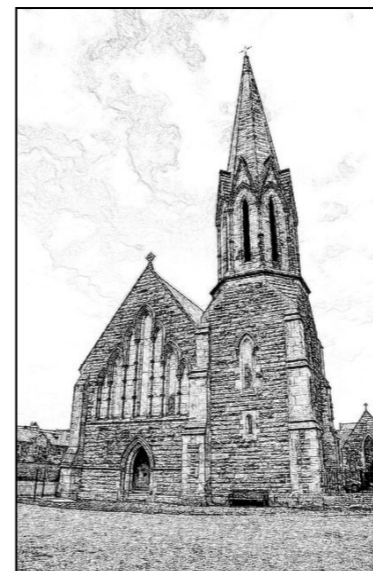
	9am Mass	11am Mass	6pm Mass
Welcomers	K Offen J Offen	C Watson G Davison	S Matthews G Snaith
Readers	N McCole V Moore	B Lewins R Hunt	L Cole B Cole
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	A Donaldson A Gorman T McLaughlin	V Shearer E Dixon G Davison	S Smith T Edwards M Illingworth
Altar Servers	M Laux G Sykes A Shepherd	A Kinghorn L Kinghorn	J Dowd C Bradley
Children's Liturgy	Leader: Amy Companion: Sylvie		

Neighbouring Parish Telephone Numbers

Fr Ian Hoskins, Longhorsley 01670 788344	Fr Shaun Purdy, Ashington 01670 812200
Fr Malcolm Cairns, Amble 01665 710252	Fr Stephen Watson, Ashington 01670 812200
Fr Lee Barrett, Cramlington 01670 712476	Rev. Stephen Boulter Bedlington 01670823258

The Pope's Intention for April

For those who have Responsibility in Economic Matters. That economists may have the courage to reject any economy of exclusion and know how to open new paths.



The Parish of
Saint Robert of Newminster, Morpeth
In the Brinkburn Partnership, Northumberland

Parish Priest: Father Peter J Stott
peterjstott@aol.com
Retired Priest: Father James Doherty
St Robert's Presbytery, Oldgate, Morpeth, NE61 1QF
(Tel) 01670 513 410
(Email) morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk
www.strobertsmorpeth.com / Facebook: St Robert of Newminster
Northumberland Listening Service | 07732 980 740

Sunday 22nd April 2018 | Fourth Sunday of Easter

Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us.

In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the Good Shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually.



Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.



Please pray for: New Members of the Church; Vocations; The Right Use of the Media; the Church; Human Work. Please pray for those who are sick, especially for Fr Jim Doherty and Fr Ian Hoskins; for all who have died recently; and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Offertory Collections

Sunday 15th April - Total Offertory £1,011.10

Counting Team meeting

There will be meeting for all Counting Teams on Monday 21st May at 11.00am. The meeting will last for hopefully no more than 1 hour. This meeting is being held at the request of some of the counting teams. We hope every counter will be able to attend, or at least send a representative from your counting team. Please let Bernadette Rich know if you are / are not able to attend. Thank you

Little Sisters of the Poor Collection



There will be a Retiring Collection for the work of the Little Sisters of the Poor TO-DAY at all Masses.

Sunday Morning Tea and Coffee

Tea and Coffee is served in the Church Hall after the 9am and 11am Masses each Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

Welcome

If you are new to our parish or are a visitor to Morpeth and attending our church this weekend, we hope you feel very welcome amongst us. If you are new to the parish, do we have your contact details? Email us with your details of address etc.

Catholic Women's League



The next CWL meeting will be in Monday 23rd April, at 7:00pm, in the Church Hall. There will be a talk by Barry Mead on Northumberland Digs. Everyone Welcome.

Brownies Vacancies

1st Morpeth Brownies currently have a few spaces for September. Brownies is for girls aged 7-10 yrs. But you can join the waiting list at any age. To register/join the waiting list please log on to www.girlguiding.org.uk & click on to parents, register your daughter then select 1st Morpeth Brownies, Tues 6-7.15pm St. Robert's. The cost is £20 per full term. For any queries please contact Sarah at Morpeth1sttawnyowl@outlook.com



Parish Newsletter

Please e-mail items for the parish newsletter, by 12 noon on Thursdays to the parish office email address on morpeth.strobertnewminster@rcdhn.org.uk or drop in a note at the Presbytery.



"Rosary on the Coast"

Next Sunday is the national Spiritual event, "Rosary on the Coast" (Sunday 29th April). We do hope you will feel able to come along and join in 3pm at St Bartholomew's Anglican Church at Church Point, Newbiggin.

Diocesan Celebration of Marriage

Bishop Seamus will celebrate Mass in St Mary's Cathedral on Saturday 5th May at 11.00am to give thanks for the Sacrament of Marriage. He has invited each parish community to be represented by at least two couples, young or old, newly married or celebrating a significant anniversary. In addition, everyone is welcome to attend. This promises to be a wonderful celebration and will provide affirmation and support for Marriage across the diocese and to the wider North-East community.

DVD Course on Our Lady

During May we will be holding a video course from CAFE on Our Lady. This will begin on Thursday 10th May at 10am in the Church Hall at St Robert's. The first day will consist of two videos (a double session), so will be a little longer than normal, but then all other sessions will be on Thursday 17th, 24th and 31st May at 10 for about one hour.

Introducing 4 new Mass Settings

The Diocesan Church Music Association presents an evening music workshop introducing 4 Mass settings of contrasting styles. Led by Paul Berry and Alison Purvis—Music Director of St Cuthbert's Catholic Church Durham. Date is Wednesday 25 April 2018 Time: 7pm-9pm at St Hilda's Resource Centre 391 West Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 7PY. For further information email alisonpurvisl@hotmail.com

Rosary Procession and Benediction

St Aidan's Catholic Church Ashington will be marking the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on Sunday 13th May at 3.00pm. Beginning in St Aidan's Church Car Park. All welcome to attend.

Baptism Preparation

The next meeting for Baptism Preparation will be held on Thursday 17th May at St Robert's at 7.30pm Any parents wishing to organize a Baptism should make an appointment to discuss this with Fr. Peter. For Baptism, one parent of the child to be baptized must be a baptized Catholic. Mass on a Saturday Evening or a Sunday is expected. One of the godparents is also expected to be a practicing Catholic. We ask parents also to attend the Baptism Preparation meeting. These meetings alternate between Morpeth and Bedlington. Parents should meet with Fr. Peter to complete the paperwork. After the Baptism Course, the parent should then make an appointment to fix a date for a Baptism. **PLEASE NOTE; dates are not usually given before the Baptism Preparation Meeting.**

Apostleship of the Sea: Pilgrimage to Holy Island

The Fifteenth Annual Pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne will take place on Saturday 2nd June. A peaceful day of prayer and reflection to pray for seafarers and for everyone involved in this ministry and charity. Everyone invited to join them on Holy Island. For further information contact Regional Port Chaplains: Paul Atkinson (07906212416) or Peter Barrigan (07713 924504)

Society of St Vincent de Paul

The next meeting of the SVP will be on Wednesday 2nd May in the presbytery. Can you be part of the SVP? 10,000 volunteer members in the UK, motivated by their faith are committed to meaningful and long term befriending. Inspired by the message of the Gospels they seek and find those in need and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them in their homes, in hospital and in care homes and offer additional practical support with furniture or financial help where needed.

Wansbeck Valley Foodbank

If you can help, the Wansbeck Valley Foodbank is constantly looking for donations of non-perishable food. Donations can be left in the box in the church porch.

Christian Aid Week: 13th—19th May

Christian Aid Week starts with an Ecumenical Service here in St Robert's Church at 4pm on Sunday 13th May. Please come to this service to pray for the poor of the world who desperately need our help and for the success of Christian Aid Week. The organisers need about 30 volunteers for the house to house collection. This is a vital task and is very easy. It takes about half an hour or so to collect them. While they have a small number of regular collectors they are getting older and fewer and they urgently need more volunteers to sustain this work. Please put your name and telephone number on the list in the church porch against your chosen street. If you are willing and able to help. Thank you. As usual there will be plant and book stalls in the market place on Saturday 19th May. We need donations of books and plants. Please contact Eileen or Gerry Harber on 517829 if you can supply some.

Diocesan Youth Conference

A conference will take place on Saturday 12th May at St Joseph's Catholic Academy, Hebburn to help parishes and partnerships engage with young people in their communities. The conference fee is £10 and includes lunch. Further details are in the booking forms available in parishes, downloadable from www.ymt.org or contact admin@ymt.org.

Northern Scripture Festival

The Northern Scripture Festival is being held on Saturday 12th May from 10am-4.30pm at All Saints School, York. This is a day for Christians to experience the Bible afresh through informative and inspiring talks, workshops and worship. Further details on the poster on the noticeboards.

Partnership "Immortal Diamond" Group

We are offering a series of sessions of group reflection and sharing based on Richard Rohr's book "Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self" (required reading) The group will explore new themes each session, through contemplation, reflection and sharing. Group meetings will take place on the last Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm to 3.30pm beginning on 25th April at Our Lady and St Joseph's Parish House, New Hartley. If you are interested in this course please contact, Mary McCullough on 01665-712247 or mary.mccullough@yahoo.co.uk.

The Justice and Peace Refugee Project in Newcastle is very grateful for your continued gifts of food, now needed more urgently than ever. To find out more please take a copy of their newsletter from the back of Church. Many Thanks

Diocesan Days of Reflection

Days of Reflection for all Ministries are to be held at Ushaw College, Durham on Saturday 19th May from 10.30 until 3.30pm; then at St Joseph Parish Hall Gateshead on Saturday 2 June from 10.30 until 3.30pm. However, **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL AS PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED.** To book a place directly contact the Department for Liturgy on 0191 2433312 email: liturgy@diocesehn.org.uk.

Baptism Congratulations

Congratulations to Ruby Mae and Noah Louie Conroy who were baptised here at St Robert's recently.

Baptisms and Receptions

Your prayers are asked for five people from our community are seeking to be baptised as adults and one who is to be received into Full communion. This will also be celebrated at 11am Mass on Sunday 13th May. Please keep our Journey in Faith candidates in your prayers.

Vocations Sunday

Today is Good Shepherd Sunday and a World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Pope Francis states, "Today ... we have great need of discernment and of prophecy. We have to resist the temptations of ideology and negativity, and to discover, in our relationship with the Lord, the places, the means and situations through which he calls us. Every Christian ought to grow in the ability to "read within" his or her life, and to understand where and to what he or she is being called by the Lord, in order to carry on his mission".

Loving Father, we give you thanks, because you call us all, to participate in your divine plan for the world; that all people may find their joy and peace in you. Bless us with a heart open to you, and enable us to listen to your Holy Spirit.

Enlighten our minds; that we may discern the path we should follow.

Give us courage to live out the life you invite us to; following more closely the example of Jesus your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

Diocesan Vocations Evening

For those thinking about Priesthood (aged 16 and over), an evening of prayer and reflection with an opportunity to listen to speakers talk about their own discernment, faith journeys and vocations will be held on Wednesday 23rd May at St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle, between 6.30pm-8.30pm. Further details are available from Fr David Smith on 0191 2623882.

Vocations Weekend for young Women

The FCJ Sisters are holding a discernment weekend for women in their 20s and 30s on Discerning Good's Call in my life" from 25th-27th May at Liverpool. There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life. It is an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters! For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Booking forms for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are now available from the parish office. The Pilgrimage is from 27th July –3rd August with a direct flight from Newcastle Airport. 2018 marks the 160th Anniversary of the Apparitions in Lourdes to St Bernadette. See Fr Peter for further details or a booking form. The Pilgrimage has a Youth Section for all 16-25 year olds. (Please remember that there is some money left from Fr Lawrence's time which can only be used to send young people from the parish on pilgrimage ...if anyone is interested please speak to Fr Peter.) The pilgrimage also runs a special section for those who need care and assistance ...please speak to Fr Peter for further details.



Ascension Thursday

Please remember that the Feast of the Ascension will once again be celebrated on the Thursday—10th May. Details of Holyday Masses will be announced soon.